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GENERAL

1. UK and French draft of Western European union agreement--
US Embassy Brussels has been informed that the UK and French Charges in Brussels have handed to Premier Spaak a western European union draft agreement which is "based on Dunkirk." The British Charge affirmed that the draft agreement applies only to German aggression and declared that the UK took such a line because of the insistence of the French. The British Charge added that a similar draft has been handed also to the Dutch and Luxembourg foreign offices and that it is planned to hold five-power meetings in one of the Benelux countries early in March.

EUROPE

2. GREECE: British view on Greek reluctance to take advice--
US Ambassador Douglas reports that US General Van Fleet (before leaving London for Greece to head the joint US Military Assistance Planning Group) was given an estimate prepared by the British Ambassador to Greece which states that: (a) the Greek Government, considering itself indispensable and Greece vital to the Western powers, feels that it can disregard Allied advice if it so desires; and (b) if political interference with the Greek Army can be eliminated and the campaign against the guerrillas controlled by effective US-UK advice, positive results should be obtainable in 1948. Douglas quotes Van Fleet as particularly deploring the reported attitude of the Greek Government and as asserting that he would lose no opportunity to counteract such a view in all Greek circles.

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FACT FACT

3. **FRENCH INDOCHINA:** Bao Dai may withdraw from agreement. US Consul Rendell in Hanoi believes that Bao Dai now feels that his bargaining position with the French has been strengthened by the lack of success in French military operations. Rendell further reports that Vietnamese Nationalist leaders have convinced Bao Dai that he made a tactical error in signing the Bollaert agreement which commits Vietnam to adherence to the French Union. The Nationalist leaders reportedly decided that in order to withdraw from this commitment Bao Dai should declare he signed only as an individual and later accept a call for his return to Indochina as emperor of a state "freely allied with France."

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